FROM OUR DEFENCE CORESPONDENT

TO INTERN OR NOT INTERN

Last Autumn we ran a front page story on government plans to introduce internment for demonstrators should anti-militarist or other protests 'get out of hand'. Those plans have so far not yet been put in hand, although the facilities for holding large numbers of people on a temporary basis are clearly there and have always been there. At the time we pointed out that several ex-army camps had been allocated for the purpose. More recently though the police have been trying out a novel form of internment which involves the abduction and detention of protesters without charge for anything up to 24 hours.

On the anti-Reagan demonstration, for example, 214 were arrested, but only 44 were actually charged with an offence. Many were taken not to a police station, but to a 'holding centre'. One such centre turned out to be a disused warehouse in south London. The purpose of arresting the protesters but not charging them was to secrete the 'troublemakers', via the use of snatch squads, away from the flashpoint, without having to go to the trouble of going through the courts. This new form of summary justice circumvents the courts completely and may very well be a sign of things to come.

The police have already admitted that other detention centres are in existence and that they have the facilities to hold detainees for periods 'longer than 24 hours'. Are these other centres also warehouses, specially prepared for this type of contingency, or were the police referring to the ex-Army camps? The new Police Bill will give the police the power to detain people for up to 96 hours without charge. If the police have plans to hold large numbers of demonstrators for 2 or 3 days until the protest has burnt itself out then it would seem logical for them to prepare holding centres, tailor-made for this purpose, well in advance. What security is like at these centres is yet to be determined.

N.B. At the Reagan demonstration many parts of central London remained unpolced while the main protests were in the process of being contained.

Things were not all ticketty boo for the cops though: outside Parliament a bomb disposal team was apparently called to deal with something or other and a controlled explosion was heard. In trendy Convent Garden police were also suddenly called to deal with several 'disturbances'. It turns out that the Savoy Hotel had been attacked by a gang of youths; also a NATO related building, the Institute of Strategic Studies. There may well have been other incidents elsewhere. If you have heard of any let us know.

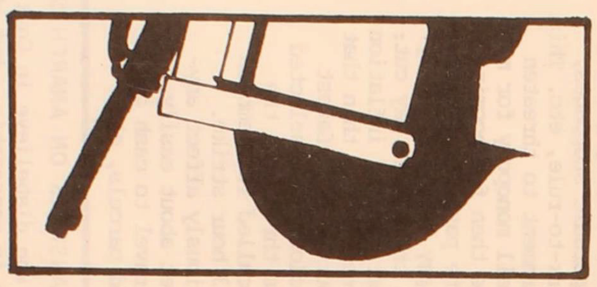
DEATH SQUADS BEGIN AT HOME

Readers of Black Flag will remember that DBAH was formally lauched as a campaign last year under the sponsorship of Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Hill Norton, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey and industrialist Sir David Wills. This cosy foursome was later joined by firearms expert and editor of Guns Review, ex-Superintendant of police Colin Greenwood. The famous five now have a plan to petition the MOD with a case in support of their ambitious Home Defence Force scheme. According to DBAH the Force would be an additional resource whose duties would include the guarding of 'secondary targets vulnerable to sabotage'.

According to a recent issue of Hand-gunner, there is much criticism prevalent in loyalist circles about the recent decision by the MoD to increase the complement of Territorials by 16,000 (see last issue of Black Flag) so as to deal with any civil, industrial or any other emergency that may occur. Critics were hoping instead that the MoD would opt for a much bigger force, namely the Home Defence Force as advocated by DBAH, that could deal with all home defence problems. For their part the MoD admitted that over 100,000 troops have been earmarked for home defence duties should the occasion demand. But for DBAH and gun enthusiasts this is not enough. DBAH claim that they already have details of around 700,000 loyalists who would be prepared to join the proposed Home Defence Force. As DBAH has so far publicised its scheme around firearm clubs and within arms magazines (and other, more exclusive, circles) one can suppose, therefore, that the vast majority of DBAH contacts probably possess their own firearms. If they havn't then Colin Greenwood, no doubt, would advise them exactly how to go about getting hold of weaponry to hold in readiness for the 'great call-up'.

DBAH have made it clear that if they don't get MoD approval, they will go ahead with their scheme regardless. After all they would not be obliged to officially describe themselves as a paramilitary force; just a bunch of simple 'gun-loving enthusiasts', who happen to have the resources to operate at will, parallel to state forces, as do the UWF.

DBAH are based in an office (Room 305) in Victoria House, Southampton Row in central London. Victoria House also (surprise, surprise) happens to house the main offices of that well known international arms dealing company, the SAS Group. Needless to say SAS deny any connection to DBAH. SAS just coincidentally happens to be in the business of supplying weaponry for counter-insurgency and riot-control, while DBAH just happens to be in the business of promoting a privately sponsored army devoted to maintaining civil order and the targeting of subversives.



AMAC

The AMAC 1, the armoured riot-control vehicle, described in its promotional material (advertising agents: LBC of Neal Street in trendy Covent Garden, London) as the 'ultimate riot deterrent' and first exposed in the Autumn Quarterly issue of Black Flag last October, caught the attention of the darlings of Fleet Street recently when it was 'discovered' that a consignment were due to be delivered to fascist Chile.

What really happened was that AMAC tactlessly refused to employ union labour for its stand at the Aldershot international arms exhibition (sponsored by the Ministry of Defence) and consequently bring the exhibition to a close unless AMAC withdrew. It would have been too embarassing for the MoD (who just scored a victory at GCHQ) to be seen to be under union threat and so AMAC was told to withdraw by the MoD on the pretext that it was supplying anti-riot equipment to the Pinochet regime. The MoD have known about the contract for some time. AMAC have been marketing the vehicle for almost a year and have already supplied one other Latin American country and a Middle Eastern country. Other 'sales outlets' include India, Pakistan and Indonesia and the MoD is expected to grant export licenses in each case.

The vehicle itself has a Bedford chassis, while its bodywork fabrication is carried out by a Southampton firm, Hampshire Transtech. Paul Latham, AMAC's marketing director positively enthuses about the vehicles' formidable design, which includes water cannon, bullet-proof tyres, infra-red video surveillance, retractable flood lights, in-built radio scrambler, an anti-barricade sweeper, a 7,000 volt charge for the bodywork, grenade launchers, 'fully furnished' interior large enough to accommodate up to 10 guards. AMAC, which is based at 3 Queen Anne Mews, London W1 (tel. 01-580 3213) are now hoping to extend their market within the European sector.

FEEDBACK

GABFEST AND GONDOLAS

There will be a general international conference on anarchist theory held in Venice in September. It would be nice if some revolutionary anarchists can turn up, perhaps combining it with their holidays. The organisers have so far announced a dreary collection of speakers far from anarchism - they includes Murray Bookchin and Colin Ward, and one feels that at a drop of a hat they might run to Vernon Richards and the renegade Woodcock - with an all-male Italian vetting panel. But, who knows, it may be radically altered, and it'll be a chance to meet friends from all over Europe who may not know what to expect. One can always go off on a gondola and sing 'A las barricadas'.

A sight of the anarchist movement in Italy will be an interesting experience for comrades. Carrara is the 'stronghold' - the marble workers have been anarchists since they first started to organise, and bars and streets there commemorate anarchist events.

International Anarchist Meeting: Venice, 24-30 September. Organised by the G Pinelli Centre of Libertarian Studies and the Anarchos Institute of Montreal. Details from CLS, V. le Monza 256, 20126 Venice, Italy.

CAMBRIDGE FREE PRESS

Versatile worker wanted (pref. male to keep constructively non-sexist balance) as 4th person of mixed printing coop. Experience of small groups more useful than actual printing skills. 4 day week, minimal wages, job rotation & skill sharing. Start late June or early July. Write to: CFP, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge CB1 2LG (0223 316403).

FOR LOVE OR MONEY

By Megan McMurchy/Jeni Thornley and others. 1983, Australia. Documentary, 109 minutes.
Interesting film, which is very moving at times, looks at the relationship of women and work.Its argument as to why womens' work is traditionally undervalued is extremely convincing. the radicality of the unions in Australia prior to World War 2 is inspiring. It is noteworthy that equal pay was only gained in Australia in the seventies. In England equal pay has never been achieved. A must for any anarcho-syndicalist.

PUBLICATIONS

ANTIDOTE
Newsbulletin from Manchester DAM on health and safety issues and workers' control etc. Free. Enclose Stamped addressed envelope to: Manchester DAM c30 Raven Press, 8-10 Great Ancoats Street MANCHESTER

BLACK STAR

Paper of the Ballymena Anarchist Group. (Not to be confused with *Black Star* of Milton Keynes/Guy Aldred group.) Feb. Second Issue 10p. What is Government? Poster. Malatesta & Ida White. Spain 1936 & 1984, Orwell; Soldiers & lots of anarchy. Available from c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern St. Belfast. Nth. Ireland.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
The MAC BOOKSHOP formerly located at 215 Victoria Parade, Collingwood 3066 Australia has moved to: 224 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA with the new name COLLECTIVE EFFORT bookshop. Permanent postal address is PO BOX 109, NORTH FITZROY, 3068 AUSTRALIA.

EZANE AZAÒ/THE FREE PERSON

A Iranian Anarchist magazine (monthly) founded in 1980. Latest issue includes writings of Augustin Souchy and Alexander Berkman. Subs (5 issues) - 10 Marks (Europe), $5 (outside Europe). Sample issue: 2 international reply coupons. Contact: Postlagercarte Nr. 028543 B, D-4300 Essen 1, West Germany.

Support the miners! Stop Polish coal imports! Picket Polish Embassy, 47 Portland Place, W1, tel no. 580 4324 from 12.00 - 2.00 on friday June 29th. For further information phone South London DAM-IWA 274 6655.

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BLACK FLAG 25P

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY VOL VII 6B No.113

CANADA Vancouver 5 Appeal.

'CONTINUE THE SABOTAGE'

The Vancouver Five support group has now made it clear that the five have never denied doing the actions attributed to Direct Action or the Wimmins Fire Brigade, they have only and consistently denied their guilt. After the wave of harsh sentences their support group have issued the following:

'It was expected that the police would try to sacrifice these individuals as a model of the fate of others to come, but we know they are only successfull in the sacrifice if there are no others to continue sabotaging the war machine: PROVE THEM WRONG!'



Doug Stewart has been acquitted of nearly all charges due to lack of evidence, but convicted of possession of weapons. Taking into account the 16 months he has already spent in jail he was sentenced to one day imprisonment. With the first round of charges Ann Hansen and Brent Taylor were found guilty.

Julie Belmas pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob a Brinks Truck, attempted arson of a Red Hot Video Store, car theft, possession of stolen property, possession of stolen property, possession of explosives, possession of dangerous weapons, and the bombing of the Litton cruise-missile plant.

Gerry Hannah pleaded guilty to the same, with the exception of possession of explosives and the Litton bombing. Afterward the court imposed a ban on all future trial publicity - hence the reason why we were unable to provide any details over the last 3 months (no information was getting through).

Both Gerry and Julie had hoped for leniency as a result of the plea bargaining. Instead the judge imposed a near maximum sentence: 20 years for Julie, 10 for Gerry.

Latest news is that Ann Hansen also pleaded guilty to the remaining charges on file - the BC Hydro bombing, the Litton bombing, the firebombing of a Red Hot Video store, possession of explosives and possession of a dangerous weapon. She was sentenced to 20 years. As the judge passed sentence, Ann threw a tomato at his face.

Only Brent Taylor is left to continue with the remainder of the trial and the remaining charges. If he is found guilty because he has held out to the end and refused to plea bargain, it is possible that he will be given a far more severe sentence than that received by his comrades.

N.B. The head of Litton Systems has said that the publicity surrounding the trial has not been so good for the company. They have failed to get the contract to produce the guidance system for the new 'stealth' version of Cruise. Litton already has the contract for the guidance system on the current model. Kearfott (a division of Singer Co) in the USA has the main contract.

SEE ALSO PRISONERS PAGE

MINERS UPDATE

Wearing down the morale of the strikers is now the main objective of the government. MacGregor is trying for a company ballot to split the union. The Media are going for less coverage. The police, on the other hand, are stepping up their harassment of striking families.

In Arnthorpe police in riot eqipment arrived after a punch-up at the Miners Welfare Club.People turned on the police. there were 24 arrests.

On picket lines police are now regularly towing away pickets cars so that they are unable to travel back home without difficulty.

In one village one miner was arrested for merely visiting his mother in another pit village.

Many special night courts have been set up to hear cases where large numbers of strikers have been arrested.

In Staffordshire 200 miners were marooned after they were ordered off coaches by police in squad cars; the cops then ordered their coaches to return northwards.

At the siege outside Parliament it was later reported that a bomb disposal unit had been stationed in the vicinity. The police tried to stop one miner from revealing details: they confiscated and destroyed the film in his camera - unfortunately for the police the miner had made a switch of film and was able to provide shots of the unit for later examination.

A DAY AT ORGREAVE COKE DEPOT

Horses being galloped into people, young and old, scything them down . They were trampled down in a style reminiscent of the Cossaks of old Russia.

Only the sabres were missing. Instead, truncheons rained down repeatedly on unprotected heads.

I saw one man lying on the ground, white-faced and twitching. A policeman on horse-back deliberately rode back over him. I could not see which part of the body the hooves touched.

On the ground the psychopathic snatch squads kicked, elbowed, truncheoned and gouged in scenes which will live in memory for the rest of my life.

One miner had blood streaming from the corner of his eye where a member of the snatch squad had deliberately inserted his finger.

The use of truncheons became commonplace. One man's head was used like a drum as two policemen took it in turns to beat down on either side of his skull in systematic and rythmic style.

With blood pouring from a gaping wound in his head, they continued to truncheon him. Blue uniforms showed patches of dark brown as blood spattered them.

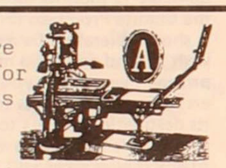
Finally, there was the riot squad themselves-used for the first time ever in an industrial dispute in Britain. They deserve a special mention.

The way they smashed their transparent sheilds into the faces of people was something unimaginable in civilised society. Their crash helmets were used equally nobly. One youngster, who could have been no more than 18, was head-butted full force by a riot policeman's helmet.

When he fell to the floor, the response was immediate. He was kicked repeatedly around the shoulders, chest and the small of his back. Similar sickening scenes were witnessed time and time again as the day wore on.

From "the Miner", written by Maurice Jones.

Doncaster @narchists have been printing leaflets for free for Hatfield Women's Support Group and need help, donations etc to:
DAG c/o John Creaghe Society
PO Box 217 Sheffield S1-1FD



FOOD

Anyone wanting to donate food to miners in South Wales, contact: Bob Mander, 24 Pentremalwed St, Morriston. Swansea.

NOT THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS

At Maltby, near Doncaster, around 200 miners and local youths attacked a police station and bombarded it with bricks and bottles for more than an hour. Shops were also attacked and some looting was reported. The next night another 150 surrounded the same police station and a Chief Superintendant suffered a broken nose when he was punched twice in the face. Locals say the atmosphere in the village is tense, especially after Orgreave and also because it is known that police have been storing riot gear in the vicinity in preparation for local street disturbances.

In Woodlands police tried to arrest a miner - but people set on the police immediately. There were around 20 arrests.

In Staffordshire there have been more instances of sabotage: three pit top conveyor belts were cut at the Silverdale Colliery, causing around £5000 worth of damage. Also at Rigmuir (anarkshire) machines and telephone wires were damaged.

In Wales up to 250,000 workers came out in sympathy in support of the miners in a one day strike. In Cardiff public transport was severely disrupted, as also were the docks, hospitals and government offices.

All of Britain's nine nuclear power stations have been placed on a emergency footing and staff are being asked to do overtime until the miners dispute is settled. The stations have had to double their normal output because of the effects of the strike on the coal-fired stations.

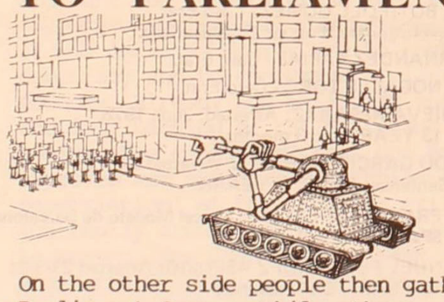
MINERS LAY SIEGE TO PARLIAMENT

On June 7 around 20,000 miners and their supporters marched from Kings Cross through the city to the South Bank. The police diverted the march through the back streets but this proved to the miners advantage as they ended up going through housing estates and alongside working areas: people came out when they saw the march and waved and cheered.

At Grays Inn Road members of SOGAT, the print workers union, came out of 'The Times' building, thus disrupting production, to show solidarity to the passing marchers. Further down the road police tried to split the march in two: scuffles broke out, a cop was thrown through a plate-glass window and a snatch-squad attempted to make arrests. They were foiled though as everyone made it clear that the march would not proceed further until they were released.

All along the way there was police harassment. But the cops were clearly unprepared for the degree of solidarity and strength of feeling and the fact that, unlike at most other London demonstrations, people acted immediately to get those snatched back from the police.

After passing through Fleet Street (where the offices of the Dailies were jeered at) the marchers arrived at Jubilee Gardens, There were the usual speeches, with at least two Labour Party leaders getting heckled. As there was no official instruction to march to Parliament, where the strike was at the time being discussed, people decided to make their own way there. At Westminster Bridge cops made the marchers dispose of their banners and placards if they were to lobby parliament. (What about lobbing?) The cops also split those crossing the bridge into two, making those who wished to lobby go across the next bridge.



On the other side people then gathered in Parliament Square, while others queued outside Parliament. Suddenly the cops got up to their pounce-and-drag-off-into-vans trick again. Everyone therefore rushed into the road to try and stop the arrests. The traffic in the road began to jam and the cops began to panic. Then, from nowhere came the mounted police, to jeers from the crowd.

With their backs to the statue of Winston Churchill and no doubt remembering his strikebreaking foray when he sent troops to quell the miners riots in Tonypandy, people fought back. There was much pushing and shoving as the police tried to break up the crowd. But the cops got a thumping. There were some arrests and later groups of people marched to the police station where they kept up a blockade until their comrades had been released.

Still outside Parliament, many people began to find themselves penned in by rows of police horses. In the square lumps of turf and beer cans were colliding with shaken-looking cops, who were attempting to keep the crowd in one place. Some individuals tried to climb the gates of Parliament itself but were pulled back by groups of cops.

Finally many people had to go back to their coaches to travel home. There was a visible relaxation as people began to drift away, leaving the cops and media types to stand around wondering what had happened...'til next time.

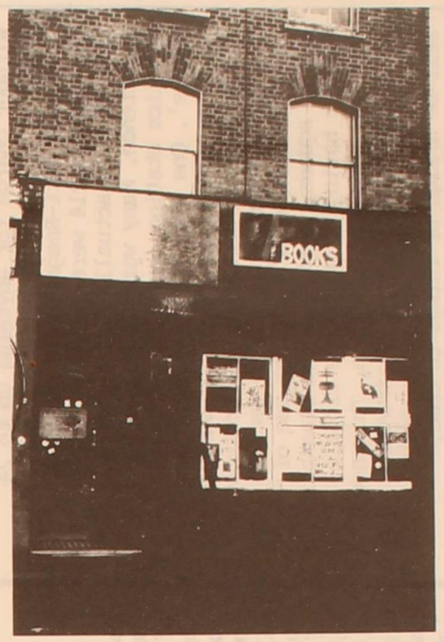
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121 THREATENED

121 Bookshop is under threat of eviction again, by the "socialist" Lambeth Council, headed by Ted "bad case of the Trots" Knight, currently under investigation to do with a building contracter scandal.
The shop has been squatted for 3½ years now, and has housed the Kate Sharpley Library and been the contact address for Black Flag and South London DAM up till now.
The council began the eviction process in May 1983, but adjourned the court case indefinitely.Now they have reactivated it - it's to be heard on Friday 22nd June, at Lambeth County Court. 121 urgently needs letters/phonecalls of support, either to Nigel Baker, Borough Valuers Office, London Borough of Lambeth,Hambrook House, Porden Rd, London SW2 Phone 274 7722 x 2460 or to the Labour Group, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2.

POSTAL STRIKE

It's ironic that the Postal workers dispute was, like the rail dispute, brought to a quick settlement within a matter of days. The union was pressing for a 5.2% pay increase, more holiday time and a reduction in work hours. They got their 5.2% after a threat of strike action, but nothing else. Rank and file lead the way as usual with wildcat actions in many parts of the country: sporadic stoppages, overtime bans, work-to-rule, etc. This prompted the government to threaten to withdraw the mail monopoly for mail connected with the then forthcoming Euro-elections. The pay rise sought is in fact not a pay rise but merely a prevention of a threatened pay cut: 5.2% is the current rate of inflation and any pay 'increase' less than that figure would be but a loss. Latest is the threat to close down selected local post offices throughout the country. The UCW called its members out for a measly 3 hour strike. Closures will seriously affect anyone not able to get about easily, with further to travel to cash pension cheques, send parcels, etc.



BOTHA'S EURO VISIT

Will probably be one of many, helping to create an impression that South Africa, now that it has made 'peace' with its neigbours and acheived a certain regional 'respectability', can now come out from the cold. The visit also served as a signal for more open foreign investment, military aid, etc.

Botha's plan regarding Namibia is for annexation by investment. Already Thatcher, Kohl, Reagan, et al, have agreed to a multi-million dollar aid programme - and we all know how 'aid' programmes have helped Latin American countries - to help in the further development (ie, exploitation) of Namibia and its vast mineral reserves. While he was in Bonn, Botha had talks with over 20 leading bankers and businessmen. With Pretoria's recent success in isolating the ANC and securing the active assistance of its nationalist and left nationalist neighbours, the ANC have now to work out a change in strategy.

Botha, now that he has broken the ice, will now call for greater military assistance for the region. The Machel regime in Mozambique are following the same strategy with regard to the MNR as Pretoria is to the ANC and the recent Nkomati pact provides a security pact that for Machel means more investment, while for Pretoria means more 'stability'. Botha's MNR and UNITA contra's have helped him buy this 'stability' in order that South Africa can play a bigger role on the world stage and achieve an expansion of the economy at a point in time where Black resistance is still very much a threat to this role.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: Surely people who disbelieve in Govt. should disbelieve in censorship - but when it comes to things you oppose - such as pornography, or racialism, or authoritarian ideas (or anything else you disagree with) - you censor them as much as anyone. Isn't this a contradiction in Anarchism?

A: There are bound sometimes to be contradictions between the Anarchists' beliefs and the actions they take in the society in which they have to live. However, this instance is not a contradiction. Censorship means preventing people saying or writing as they believe, or forcing others to say or write what they don't believe.

Rejection of censorship doesn't mean one should go and help distribute views in which one disbelieves; nor does it mean one must accept aggression meekly provided it is expressed verbally and not physically. Racial abuse normally helps to incite to violent aggression, so does (at any rate certain types of) pornography.

The printed word as aggression is also a valuable field of exploitation politically and (in the case of pornography) financially. Pornography is the basis of criminal empires, (or business empires not sanctioned by the State, if you prefer).

Resisting aggression isn't censorship; patently one doesn't willingly let someone come into their presence and start abusing them personally in the name of free speech.

Censoring - called properly 'licensing of printing and speed' - is a State privilege, using State powers, to extend that natural personal right to cover the interests of the impersonal State.



THE SCRUTON ROGERED

Writing in *The Times*, right wing guru Roger Scruton criticised investigative journalism. They had the 'power to publish information damaging to individuals'. Bad. Mr Scuton then went on to publish very damaging information, not investigated but invented, about Stuart Christie. He was the author not only of a book on investigative journalism but also the author of *The Anarchist Cookbook* with its "recipes for bombs and other instruments of destruction ...which... has been banned by the Home Office..."

But he forgot one important factor in *Times* and media journalism. Ok to attack anarchists with allegations of bombs, murder and terrorism - you can get away with any fiction. But don't name names, at least not of someone with sufficient contacts to get a witty answer back in a rival paper, and to contact a sympathetic lawyer. The *Observer* gleefully commented on Mr Scruton's boob...

SUNDAY PEOPLE & ANARCHISTS

A 'dirty' story having made the *Sunday People* about *Class War* – 'evil man' behind it proving to hold an honours degree and being the son of a butler (not, one would have presumed, actual criminal offences)-sent its baby reporters to find something 'dirty' about *Black Flag*. Alas, they found nothing. It's not even certain they ultimately got copies of the paper (which is the least one might have expected).

Instead the *People* had to run a 'dirty tricks' story on the Greenham Common women. But how revealing it was. . . the 'misery' of living just 15 yards from the peace protesters has induced a couple 'to put their £80,000 home up for sale'. Mrs Janet Scull said she'd had enough and was prepared to accept offers £10,000 or £15,000 lower than the value they place on it (not the value at which they bought it!) which is fairly convincing testimony.

'Her estate agent husband, Ivor, added "It isn't the missiles we object to, it's the women camped outside the house and the hassle that goes with it."' (*People* 3/6/84)

Those who think the Greenham Common women 'bourgeois' simply demonstrate they don't know what the term means. For a neat summary of bourgeois values, Ivor Scull's statement cannot be beaten. Blow us all to kingdom come, by all means, but for real misery, knock a few thousands off the price of our house . . . it isn't the holocaust we object to, it's the scruffiness of the people camped out to protest about it. . .

Didn't one get 'scruffy' camped in the Flanders trenches?

Ah, that was different. . . . It didn't knock the value off our house.

ENGLISH CUSTOMS

What is going on in Kent Customs & Excise? As part of the new drive-up presumably against spies, saboteurs & smugglers, a nine year old, Lee Lennox, was held and interrogated for twenty minutes - because after a day-trip to France he tried to take a picture of the Dover Customs with his Brownie camera. "It was very frightening" said his mother. He only wanted it for his school project ...anyone would think we were top level spies."

Meanwhile in Folkestone, some very sober Anarchist periodicals were stopped by zealous Customs officers. When they were challenged and asked for the regulations, they first pointed to 'horror comics' - a bit absurd in view of the newspapers concerned, largely statistical - and then said it was under the reading of obscenity. The persistent traveller exploded with rage, and Special Branch came along to admit they were not 'obscene' - only to substitute because of 'the danger of terrorism' they had to investigate but nothing need be taken - only the innocent traveller's address.

One of the publications was a review of Hayek's New Individualism and the Thatcherite monetarist 'right wing anarchist' tendency - so maybe the charge of 'obscenity' was right after all...only not quite the way they meant.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTERNATIONAL

YUGOSLAVIA

TITO'S LEGACY, OLIGARCHIC COLLECTIVISM

For 35 years Tito, the charismatic oligarch-ruled the confederation of Yugoslavia with an Eastern hand in a Western glove. Under his dictatorship, consensus was reached through and by his 'benevolence'. After his passing to that that great 'marxist' paradise in the great beyond, the mini-oligarchs of the various Balkan regions set about creating their own collective oligarchy, and so rather than more freedom, politically, socially, economically and culturally for the peoples of the Balkan regions, life has become increasingly unstable and dangerous over the past few years.

In 1983 Yugoslavia was in debt to the West to the tune of $30 billion. The stagnation caused by the economic crisis engendered by this debt brought about mass unemployment and a plummeting in the standard of living. The oligarchs solution to this crisis was to borrow another $6 billion. But this increasing debt did not go any way towards solving the social and economic problems, because it was used to pay off part of the original $30 billion owed to western banks.

Whereas in the past people from Yugoslavia could travel to Germany, America, France and Sweden for employment, it is not now, because of the economic situation in those countries, possible to do so. The increasing hardships brought about by this economic crisis along with unemployment, the absence of basic foods, flour, meat, fruit and rice.

As would be normal in any working class community, rather than go hungry people in many areas used the money they would normally spend on electricity, rent, heating etc. to buy food.

This happened for instance in Zagreb where 400,000 people refused in the Spring and Summer of 1983 to pay these charges, the authorities threatened that they would not turn on heating during Winter. Because of the number of people involved the authorities had to back track.

Beside this economic terrorism there is political terrorism.

Although Yugoslavia is economically dependent on the West, its State is modelled on the type created by the Bolsheviks from 1921 onwards in Russia.

In Yugoslavia you cannot write, speak or think differently, or to any degree make criticial comments about, the State leaders or points in Party resolutions on economic, social or cultural developments. To even say that the Albanians for instance, should have the right to separate from Yugoslavia if they want to is criminal. Even to crack jokes against the state, or party plans is not allowed.

If you do criticise, even slightly, you are labelled 'an enemy of socialism', then you are outside of the Law and will be punished, by imprisonment.

For speaking out you can get anything from 6 months to 3 years in prison, for writing you will be punished even more. So just for expressing yourself as a normal human being you are labelled 'an enemy of socialism' and sent to prison. A different opinion marks you out as the 'opposition' and not a socialist.

Even if you do not speak at all, one way or another you are punished because you may be thinking wrongly. Some writers have been arrested for 'disturbing public opinion'.

Despite almost forty years of 'socialism', there is a 30% illiteracy rate in Yugoslavia. One of the Oligarchs said that 'People who do not believe in Marxism-Leninism cannot teach social sciences in our school system'.

If you do not believe in Marx, as the God he has been turned into, then you are excluded from teaching in schools, colleges and universities. 'So be it'.

Besides workers and intellectuals, the young people are kept down and under constant surveillance.

The youth are all mostly unemployed which brings pressure from both the State and the family.

Because of the oligarchic society, young people tend not to think of the future, considering no further development possible. The places where mainly the young people go like cafes are bugged so that people find it increasingly harder to have confidential conversations.

The police in Yugoslavia have immense power, especially since 1981 when new police powers were introduced.

The misery of everyday life is supplemented by police repression and harassment. When you have the pleasure of contacting the forces of 'law and order' in Yugoslavia you are in real physical danger, even though there is no rational reasons for you to be so. There have been numerous physical attacks on dissidents, people on drugs, 'law' breakers and many others, some of whom have ended up six feet under.

Like all countries citizens rights in Yugoslavia are non-existent.

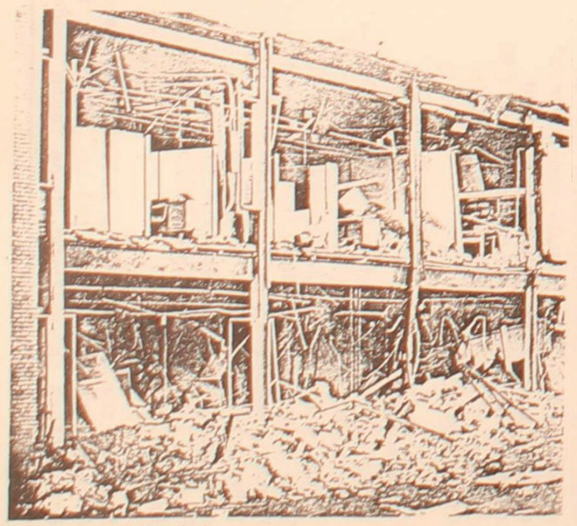
The cultural primitiveness of nationalistic hatred which has been deliberately fostered by the Confederal Oligarchy will not be solved so long as the social/economic situation continues.

From the mid-sixties onwards the nationalist movements have been used to crush the left opposition which had been developing throughout Yugoslavia.

The national problem in the Balkans can be solved only if you solve the economic, social and cultural problems.

SOURCE: Transcribed from tape by BM London from Max Nettlau Centre, 15p Gracieuse 75005 PARIS, FRANCE.

WRITINGS OF THE VANCOUVER 5
Letters, poems, articles and drawings from the Five while in prison. £1.00 as a fund-raising benefit from
FREE THE FIVE DEFENCE GROUP
Box 48296 Bentall Station Vancouver
BC CANADA V7X-1A1



Bomb-damaged Litton plant:

BRAZIL

Like so many other people in so many other Latin American countries the poor of Brazil have been forced to starvation level in order to service the needs of the developed countries and the debt repayments to the world financiers.

The recent London Economic Summit had one clear message to such people: more of the same medicine. The Summit decided to turn the screws even further by making the third world economies even more dependent on Western finance (by 'increased investment' and longer repayment periods). Increased investment simply means more companies doing what other companies have been doing to third world economies for years: putting in capital in order to rake off huge profits which then get secreted out of the country to be invested yet again in the 'world market'. Longer repayment periods don't make things easier, they merely lengthen the payments to be made while other debts mount up and increase exponentially.

Over half of Brazil's export earnings are used to pay off world debts. As Brazil has an export economy, that means that nearly half of all the GNP ends up paying off the debt. But that's only the tip of the iceberg. Because Brazil's economy is mainly owned or administrated by international finance a good proportion of the earnings that don't go to pay off the debts end up outside the country anyway. One multi-national, British American Tobacco (BAT Industries), has invested $2m into the Brazilian economy over the last five years, but during that same period managed to extract $129.2m for reinvestment elsewhere. Meanwhile while three-quarters of the population are at starvation level, the $7 billion earned last year from food exports ends up paying off interest payments.

A starving poor are too weak to fight back. The Brazilian and other regimes have found that starvation is cheaper and more 'cost effective' than simple repression alone. But to be on the safe side the governments of the day always have US and other Western powers to fall back on, to supply arms, military training, etc. Hence the Economic Summit: a reaffirmation of the 'need' to fight 'terrorism' (ie, any of the poor of the world who dares to challenge the governments of the world) and keep the poor of the third world firmly in their place.

BOLIVIA

The COB (Bolivian Workers Confederation) have won a decisive victory. Latest report is that President Zuazo has given in fully to their demand that Bolivia default on the World Bank debt payment.

The COB have been insisting on default for some time now and a 6 month campaign ended up in a hunger strike by over 5,000 COB members. The Bolivian financial system was also paralysed by a bank workers strike which has been going on now for the last 6 weeks. The government have now said that the $800m owing to the World Bank will be channeled into the country's economy. However Zuazo has made it clear that this is only a temporary measure and that repayments will resume as soon as the economy has started to recover.

This, of course, is no real solution but only a postponement of the problem. For the Bolivian workers only total default and divorce from the IMF/World Bank would be of any benefit. If this could be achieved without provoking a coup then the implications for other potential defaultees would be enormous. For world capitalism the consequences would be disasterous and could signal direct military intervention from the US on a scale to Viet Nam. Total default would only be one step from a reconstruction of the economy. Already the COB have shown that the mines can be run without management. Last year the copper workers occupied the mines and decided on a policy of collectivisation. That policy is yet to be achieved.

Although the COB is not organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines, it has for some time now been in regular contact with the IWA-AIT and has indicated an interest in affiliating.

ALGERIA

Left nationalist Ahmed Ben Bella, imprisoned for many years because he was considered too dangerous a rival to the current regime, has now decided on a new line of action to take power. Living in virtual exile in Geneva he has recently announced the formation of a new social democrat party under his personal control. Its objectives are to set up a provisional government as soon as possible and oust the authoritarian left regime currently in control. The policies of Ben Bella's prodigy are to restore democracy and to encourage a pluralistic economy. Already Ben Beila has got the full backing of the Mitterand regime. The condition? that Ben Bella approves and supports the 'voluntary repatriation' of the Algerian exiles (currently around one million) living in France. The French Right have been seeking this for years. Now the state socialists, who have proven that in power that they are as racist as their traditional enemies, have worked out a deal that even the old OAS could not have dreamt of: a client regime, under French tutelage, receiving French economic aid, ripe for exploitation, and all with a prior arranged agreement to get rid of troublesome north Africans (who have recently been at the forefront of some of the country's biggest industrial disputes).

Ben Bella has freely admitted that he wants to exploit his immigrant army by sending them back to Algeria and put them to labour, working to build a strong economy. He stated: 'If these emigrants have built roads, factories, and towns in France, they could carry their experience to their native country.' But will Ben Bella achieve his objectives? To set himself up he will need more than support from M. Mitterrand. He will need to overthrow the regime in Algiers. With OAS support he may just do that. A few strategic assassinations and things may just go his way. But what about the Algerian people themselves? It is unlikely that they will wish to become embroiled in another colonial war to satisfy the whims of a lefty capitalist. Nor would the immigrant population take kindly to the idea that they are to become the new shock troops of a re-colonised Algeria.

PRISONERS BLACK CROSS PRISONERS

LIBERTARIAN PRISONERS LIST - SPAIN

C ARABANCHEL PRISON: Apartado de Correos 27007, Madrid -25 SPAIN

MIGUEL MULET NICOLAU: Arrested 1-8-79 Barcelona. Tried 3-5-82. Sentence 31 YEARS.

JUAN CONESA SANZ: Arrested 17-11-79 Tried 16-11-82 Sentence 7 YEARS and 8 months.

FERNANDO SIMON FERNANDEZ: Arrested 12-79/1-80; 17-11-78: Tried 16-11-82: Sentence 7 YEARS and 8 months.

RAFAEL SIMON GOMEZ: Arrested 3-2-78 Valencia. Sentence over 11 YEARS.

JOSE MARIA VIERTOS ARCAS: Arrested 13-2-80 Barcelona

JACINTO AVALOS CARDONA: Arrested 10-1-81. Sentence 4 YEARS.

GUILLERMO LORENZO TREVINO: Arrested: 14-2-80 Barcelona.

FRANCISCO MEDIAN HERNANDEZ: Arrested 14-2-80 Barcelona

GUILLERMO MARIN GAITAN: On remand. Arrested 24-1-83

JOSEP DIGON BALAGUER: On remand. Arrested 24-1-83

SOTERO DEL CAMPO BAZ: On remand. Arrested 24-1-83.

ALVARO ALVARO DEL RIO: Arrested 1979. Sentence: 4 YEARS and 2 months. Awaiting second trial.

GUILLERMO GONZALEZ: Arrested 1979. Sentence: 4 YEARS and 2 months. Awaiting second trial.

YESERIAS WOMENS PRISON: Carcel de Yeserias, Madrid.

MARIA LUISA ALVARO DEL RIO: Arrested 1979. Sentence: 4 YEARS and 2 months. Awaiting second trial.

SEGOVIA PRISON: Apartado de Correos 113, Segovia Spain.

MIGUEL ANGEL MORENO PATINO: Arrested August 1978 Llorent de Mar. Tried: 17-11-79. Sentence: 7 YEARS.

FIDEL MANRIQUE GARRIDO: Arrested 1-5-78 Valladolid Sentence: OVER 32 YEARS. CNT member.

FERNANDO MERINO DEL RIO: Arrested 1-5-78 Valladolid. Sentence: 12 YEARS and 6 months. CNT member.

JOSE LUIS PIQUERO PEREZ: Arrested 1-5-78 Valladolid. Sentence: 7 YEARS and 5 months CNT member.

GABRIEL BOTIFOLL GOMEZ - Caso Erat (Armed Revolutionary Workers Organisation).

JOSE HERNANDEZ TAPIAS - Caso Erat.

MANUEL NOGALES TORO - Caso Erat.

EMILIO NIEVA REPARAZ: Arrested: June 1978. Sentence: 13 YEARS and 3 months.

FERNANDO GARCIA MORALES: Arrested 3-2-78 Valencia. Sentence: OVER 11 YEARS.

MODELO PRISON BARCELONA Carcel Modelo de Barcelona Barcelona SPAIN

JUAN MANUEL FERNANDEZ ASENSIO: Arrested 23-3-81 Sentence: 19 YEARS. CNT member.

GUILLERMO PELLEJA: Arrested January 1982. CNT member.

JORGE GIL SALVADOR: Arrested 20-5-81. Tried 10-283. Sentence: 4 YEARS and 5 months.

FRANCISCO NICOLAS GARRIDO: Arrested 1-8-79. Tried: 3-5-82. Sentence: 43 YEARS.

JOSE GRANADOS MARTINEZ: Arrested 1-8-79 Barcelona. Tried: 3-5-82. Sentence: 31 YEARS. CNT member.

MODELO PRISON VALENCIA : Carcel Modelo de Valencia, Valencia SPAIN.

EUGENIO ASENSIO NOGUES: Arrested June 1978. Sentence OVER 8 YEARS.

PUERTO DE SANTAMARIA PRISON address not known.

JOSE RAMON CORNEJO SANCHEZ: Tried 16-11-82. Already in prison through previous convictions. Sentence: 4 YEARS and 8 months.

LERIDA PRISON

JAVIER CANADAS GASCON: Arrested 16-1-78. Tried 1-12-80. Sentence: 17 YEARS. Caso SCALA.

ARTURO PALMA SEGURA: Arrested 16-1-78. Tried: 1-12-80. Sentence: 17 YEARS. CNT member Caso SCALA.

BURGOS PRISON

PEDRO GARCIA PENA: CNT member.

SEVILLE PRISON

MANUEL CRUZ CABALEIRO: Caso ERAT (Armed Revolutionary Workers Organisation).

Comrades recently released:

COMRADES RECENTLY RELEASED:
Alejandro Mata Camacho, Jose Orive Velez, Angel Vega Abraila, Vincente Dominguez Median, Francisco Asensio Garcia, Miguel Bosqued Morales, Alain Drogou Cadec, Antonio Maria Rojas Garcia, Francisco Estriche Ferrer, Miguel Cuenca Rastrojo, Saturnino Saez de Ibarra.

This list was originally dated July 1983 but has since been up-dated (2 months ago) by Angel Regalado, Secretary of the Comite Pro-Preso (Prisoners Support Group) CNT-AIT. It should therefore be almost completely accurate. If readers wish to send good-will messages, post-cards etc. to any prisoner, we suggest you send the same message to 2 prisoners rather than 1, so as to ensure at least one letter reaches its destination (letters to prisoners are not unknown to go astray!) We would also appreciate it if readers informed us of any replies received.

Unfortunately, the addresses given for **Yeserias, Modelo - Barcelona** and **Modelo - Valencia** prisons are not complete, but we have been told that they should be sufficient for all letters to reach their destination, seeing as hardly anybody in Spain doesn't know where these prisons are.

Almost all prisoners have appealed against their sentence and/or applied for pardons. We also know of 2 more prisoners - JOSE RAMON SANCHEZ RAMOS and AUGUSTIN GARCIA CORONADO - but dont know where they are being held. Finally, we recently received a report about conditions inside **Segovia** prison and hope to publish it soon. Watch this space!



CHILE-MIR

For 3 years 7 members of the MIR (Revolutionary Left Movement) have been held in Chilean jails for allegedly robbing 3 banks & killing 2 cops. They are being held in solitary & have suffered physical & mental torture including electric shocks. The Fiscal Militair-General, Sr. Juan Michaelson has called for the death penalty for them which means death 3 days after conviction by a military Court.

This type of trial is possible as Pinochet re-imposed a State of Emergency this year due to his mounting opposition & brought in new anti-terrorist Laws which defines 'terrorism' as any form of political dissent or even homeless or unemployed people, allows civilians to be tried by military Courts.

Also, on the 18th April, 8 members of the Committee for the Defence of the Rights of the People were arrested and their offices sacked in Santiago. Though witnesses saw their arrest & detention at the 3rd Commisaria in Santiago, the cops & govt are denying all knowledge of the eight.

The 7 facing the possible death sentence are: Victor Zuniga Arellano, Carlos Garcia Herrera, Gonzalo Quiroga, Rodolfo Moraga, Juan Gazardo Ortiz, Mirian Ortega & Rolando Cartegena Cordova.

The 8 disappeared are Luis Rocco, Manuelia Leiva Letelier, Dante Riuz, Ximena Opazo, Patricia Gonzalez, Maria Elena Ahumada, Emily Dobbs and Renard Betancourt Mendoza.

Urgent action has been requested by the friends of these people. Write to:
Chilean Ambassador, Chilean Embassy, 12 Devonshire Street, London W1.
Tel: 580 6392

FRANCE - NOURY

Michel Noury, sentenced for 5 years (he has served one year) for a variety of 'political' offences, has been on special punishment because of his letters to political papers, specifically the 'anti-prison press'. He can no longer receive political papers. Michel has appealed to all comrades to write on his behalf to the Inspector General of Prisons, who can be contacted c/o the Ministere de la Justice, 13 Place Vendome, 75042 PARIS, Cedex 01.

KEN DAYAMOND

Ken was charged with 'threatening assault against an Internationally Protected Person: M Thatcher', three counts of assaulting police officers and possession of marijuana. These charges came about as a result of a picket against Thatcher when she paid a visit to Canada last year. Ken's bail conditions are stringent. The Canadian criminal code does not specify a sentence for the charges and so in theory Ken is liable to whatever the judge decides. The trial date has been set for Sept. 25. A defence fund has been set up: Account 16225, Central Trust, 415 Yonge Street, Toronto, Canada. Protest letters to: Roy McMurty, Attorney-General, 18 King Street East, 18th Floor, Toronto, Canada M5C 1C5. Further information from KD Defence Committee, PO Box 6326, Station A, Toronto, tel - 465 1783.

V5 SUPPORT GROUP STATEMENT

The entire case is about guerrilla politics, even when the five on trial have not had the freedom to raise their voices about it. It should have been abundantly clear to everyone that never have any of the charges been denied by any of the accused, even though they have pleaded not guilty in court. ....The politics, therefore, are most strongly understood through the actions that have brought the people to jail and to the court, and it is people on the outside that must use their voices to continue the political development involved. The charges that the Vancouver Five face speak for themselves ....No matter what legalistic compromises have had to be made to attempt to avoid martyrdom of long sentences, and no matter what silence has been necessary to avoid implicating themselves, they have never renounced their conviction that action must be taken, directly, to stop the war machine and its patriarchial, imperialist and conquistadorial attitudes. The question of targets and tactics have been raised by the actions that they are charged with and have been discussed somewhat through the few writings and interviews they have agreed to. Those actions and writings have been intended for nothing less than encouraging others to undergo the same process. Any mistakes from the past serve best, not to discourage, but to finetune our development into action....It was expected that the police would try to sacrifice these individuals as a model of the fate for others to follow, but we know they are only successful in the sacrifice if there are no others to continue sabotaging the war machine. PROVE THEM WRONG!

FIND OUT WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON



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